THE CANADIAN HISTORY SOCIETY AND ITS ORGANIZATION

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To the Members of the
CANADIAN HISTORY SOCIETY.

On Saturday, June 2, 1923, the following correspondence appeared in *The Times*:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I venture to send you herewith copies of letters which have passed between His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and myself, and I should be very grateful if you could give them publicity in the columns of *The Times*. They are self-explanatory. Communications from those interested will be welcomed by the Temporary Secretary, Sir Campbell Stuart, to whom letters should be addressed, care of the Canadian Archives,

Public Record Office,

Chancery-lane, London, E.C.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

MARY MINTO.

Hydon End, Hambledon, Godalming,
May 30.

Hydon End, Hambledon, Godalming, May 25.

Sir,—I am venturing to approach your Royal Highness upon a matter which I feel confident will be of interest to you. Sir Campbell Stuart has suggested to me that an effective means of assisting the Canadian Government in its efforts to obtain all the information possible relating to its history would be the formation of an historical association in England and France, composed of those families which have been connected with its administration and of those which were associated with its naval or military history.

The proposal appeals to me forcibly, for some of the happiest years of my life were spent in Canada, and my husband, Lord Minto, while Governor-General, was deeply

interested in the measures adopted by the Government for the preservation of its historic documents. Such an association would create a bond of sympathy between the two countries, and would prove of interest to many families who have possibly forgotten the part played by their predecessors in the progress and development of Canadian institutions. There are undoubtedly numerous memoirs and documents preserved in family archives, which would form the basis of an administrative history of the Dominion, and some of these might be published from time to time in suitable form. In any event, I think this association, through the family connexions of its members, would reveal sources of information which are at present unsuspected. Will your Royal Highness kindly give me your views on the subject ? The Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, cordially endorses the proposal and Sir Campbell Stuart has expressed his willingness to act as temporary secretary for the association and to attend to the details of its formation.

I remain, Sir, your Royal Highness's obedient servant,

MARY MINTO.

Clarence House, St. James's, S.W., May 26.

Dear Lady Minto,—The proposal contained in your letter meets with my cordial approval. It is a movement entirely in sympathy with the views held by the late Lord Minto, and the views held by the succeeding Governor-Generals. Under the administration of Lord Grey, the first Archives building was erected, and afterwards, under my own, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the state of the Public Records, and the Board of Historic Publications for Canada was created.

The collection of historical material in Ottawa, which has been made possible by the generous support of successive Governments, has now assumed vast proportions, and the historians of the future will find material at hand for the political, economic, and social history of Canada, both under French *régime*, as well as under British rule.

An association such as proposed should be of real service to Canada. Through its members would be made known sources of history which are unsuspected, and it should prove a great pleasure to its members to learn, through this means, the story of Canada, with which their families have been identified.

I am glad to know that the Prime Minister of Canada approves it, and that Sir Campbell Stuart will act as temporary secretary.

Believe me, yours sincerely,

ARTHUR.

In accordance with the wish expressed by the Duke of Connaught and Lady Minto, I set to work immediately to organize a Canadian history society along the lines indicated in this correspondence. It has been for me a task of especial pleasure, and I have received innumerable letters from many of the descendants resident in the British Isles of the Families who have made Canadian history.

It is proposed to call the organization the CANADIAN HISTORY SOCIETY. The objects of the Society are :—

To maintain an interest in the Canada of to-day among the descendants of those who have contributed to the upbuilding of its institutions.

To ensure the preservation of historical records relating to Canada and to render them available to the Society for the purpose of its publications.

To publish in a series of volumes biographies of those who have by their services contributed to the history of the country.

To endeavour by research to discover historical sources.

ARCHIVES.

The Canadian Government has for many years made extensive research for material relating to Canadian history, and maintains a staff in England and in France. In the Archives Department at Ottawa there is a collection of over twenty-five thousand volumes of manuscript, largely official, which is classified and arranged for the convenience of inquirers. It is particularly desirable to ascertain whether there exist in private hands records of a semi-official or private nature, and it is hoped that in the quest for this class of document the members of the Society may be able to assist the Government. The material in the Archives at Ottawa will be at the service of the Editors entrusted with the preparation of biographies.

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership is restricted to those descendatns or representatives, male or female, of those families who have served Canada in an administrative, ecclesiastical, naval or military capacity. It is particularly requested that all descendants, whether in the direct line or not, should register their names with the Secretary as soon as possible.

THE COUNCIL OF THE FAMILIES.

The Council will include the principal male representatives of those families who have held high office in Canada in the past, or whose ancestors in this country have had much to do with Canadian affairs. The Duke of Devonshire has accepted the office of President of the Council, which at present includes :—

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.
The Marquess of Salisbury, K.G.
The Marquess of Normanby, D.L.
The Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, D.S.O.
The Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, K.T.
The Marquess of Crewe, K.G.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
The Earl of Galloway,
The Earl of Dalhousie.
The Earl of Elgin.
The Earl of Albemarle, K.C.V.O.
The Earl of Dartmouth, K.C.B.
The Earl Stanhope, D.S.O., M.C.
The Earl Bathurst.
The Earl Grey
The Earl of Minto.
The Earl Cathcart.
The Earl Amherst.
The Earl of Durham, K.G.
The Earl Granville, G.C.V.O.
The Earl of Strafford.
The Viscount Elibank.
The Lord Lovat, K.T.
The Lord Seaton.
Sir Charles Metcalfe, Bart.
Sir Charles Prevost, Bart.
Sir Somerville Head, Bart.
Sir George Arthur, Bart.
The Hon. Dudley Carleton.
Mr. A. D. Wolfe-Aylward.

PUBLICATIONS.

Mr. John Buchan has kindly agreed to act as Editor-in-Chief of the proposed biographies, which Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, Limited, will publish. Mr. Buchan has already arranged for the life of Lord Durham to be written by Lord Charnwood ; the life of Lord Dorchester to be written by Mr. G. Murray Wrong ; and the life of the eighth Earl of Elgin to be written by Professor J. S. Morrison.

HEADQUARTERS.

It will be necessary to provide permanent Headquarters to house the Society's activities and this subject must engage the attention of the Council at an early date.

I suggest that an Executive Committee be formed to care for the interests of the Society. I am glad to be able to say that we will be fortunate enough to have as Secretary of the Society Mr. H. P. Biggar, to whom all communications should be addressed at the Canadian Archives Department, Public Record Office, Chancery-lane, W.C.

THE CANADIAN HISTORY SOCIETY IN FRANCE.

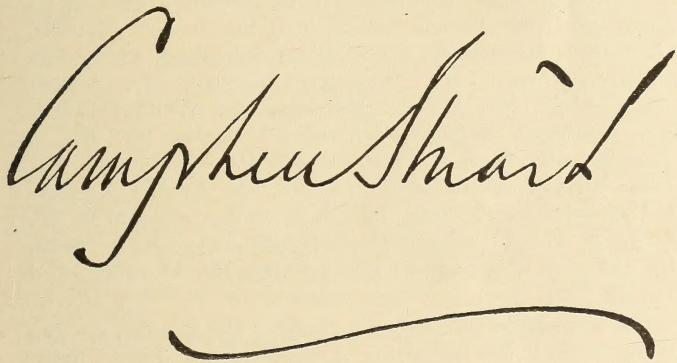
A Society has been formed in France in which the Marquis de Montcalm has accepted the office of President of the Council of the Families. This French Society will work on similar lines to the English Society.

THE CANADIAN HISTORY SOCIETY IN CANADA.

It is hoped shortly to organize a third Society in Canada which will consist primarily of descendants of historical families resident in that Dominion.

In order formally to launch the Society I took advantage of the presence in England of the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, to entertain him at dinner at Claridge's Hotel on November 7. A full account of this dinner will, I think, be of interest to the members of the Society.

Yours faithfully,



9, Bryanston-square, W.1.

Dinner given by Sir Campbell Stuart to the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, at Claridge's Hotel, London, on Wednesday, November 7, 1923. The following were present :—H.R.H. the Duke of York, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Atholl, Lord Galloway, Lord Elgin, Lord Dartmouth, Lord Bathurst, Lord Grey, Lord Minto, Lord Durham, Lord Cromer, Lord Cathcart, Lord Strafford, Lord Burnham, Lord Lascelles, Lord Cranborne, Lord Lovat, Lord Charnwood, Lord Riddell, the Lord Chief Justice, the Hon. G. P. Graham (Canadian Minister of Railways and Canals), the High Commissioner for Canada, the Agents-General for the Provinces of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, the Master of Elibank, the Dean of Windsor, Sir Charles Metcalfe, Sir George Arthur, Sir Charles Prevost, Sir Arthur Stanley, Sir Charles Townshend, Sir Hamar Greenwood, Sir Joseph Flavelle, Sir Robert Kindersley, Sir William Schooling, Sir George McLaren Brown, Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Patrick Ramsay, Mr. Wolfe-Aylward, Mr. Montague Norman, Mr. Lionel Curtis, Mr. E. R. Peacock, Mr. John Buchan, Mr. F. C. Goodenough, Mr. John W. Dafoe, Mr. H. P. Biggar, Mr. Evelyn Wrench, Mr. Robert Grant, Junr., Mr. P. J. Pybus, Colonel R. W. Leonard, Mr. Thomas Mulvey (Under-Secretary of State for Canada), Commander Louis Greig, Dr. Doughty, and Dr. Skelton.

Sir Campbell Stuart, in proposing the health of "The King," read the following message from Lord Stamfordham :—

> "The King much appreciates the message which he has received from the Members of the Canadian History Society on becoming their Patron. I am commanded to express his Majesty's thanks for the loyal sentiments communicated by those assembled this evening at the dinner given by you to welcome the Prime Minister of Canada to London, and his Majesty is gratified to think that the Duke of York is present on this occasion. The King gratefully recognizes the

efforts of the Society to give to the coming generations of Canada a deeper insight into the stirring history of their country and wishes every success to the furtherance of this admirable object."

Sir Campbell Stuart then said:—My Lord Archbishop, my Lords and Gentlemen,—It is my great privilege this evening to be honoured by the company of his Royal Highness the Duke of York. He has come here to join us in our welcome to the Canadian Prime Minister, and at the same time to evince his interest in the Canadian History Society, which was launched to-night in a permanent form, a Society which hopes, with its traditions, the story of a nation's soul, to become better known to the rising generation of Canada. I would like to say to you to-night that there is no tradition in the minds and hearts of the people of the Dominion of Canada which they hold to more dearly and which is more closely implanted in their private and national life than that tradition which, under French Kings and under English Kings, has been their devotion to the Throne. We of the great Dominions and the Colonies of the Crown and in the outposts of the Empire know that the links that bind us, the tie that holds us together, is the Monarchy, and in that sense, in this Anglo-Canadian company, I bid to-night the warmest of warm welcomes to our Sovereign's son, his Royal Highness the Duke of York.

The toast was enthusiastically honoured.

H.R.H. the Duke of York then said:—Mr. Chairman, my Lords and Gentlemen,—I thank you, Sir Campbell Stuart, for the very kind words which you have used in proposing the toast of my health this evening, and I thank you, my Lords and Gentlemen, for the very kind way in which you have received it. It is a very great pleasure to me to be here this evening and to join this very distinguished and historic company in extending a cordial welcome to the Prime Minister of Canada. Mr. Mackenzie King must feel as he glances around this room the spirit of the past. For myself, the presence of Sir Robert Kindersley calls to my mind that great company which played so important a part in the early life of Western Canada, and this thought brings in its train a direct recollection that a former Duke of York was Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1683. The Canadian History Society commences its career to-night in a very fitting and, I venture to say, in a most auspicious manner. Its possibilities are enormous, and it is difficult to realise to what length it may go. Its objects are such that I regard it not only as a duty to be present at the inauguration of its activities, but I feel it is indeed a pleasure to help a Society such as this which aims at the preservation of national records, the development

of national character, and the immortalizing of national service. Finally, I would like to express my sincere hope that the wish of Sir Campbell Stuart may be realised and that the members of the Society will dine in London next year with the representatives of France and work together for the common good of that great country which our two nations founded.

Sir Campbell Stuart then said :—

Your Royal Highness, my Lord Archbishop, my Lords and Gentlemen.—Before proposing to-night the health of the Prime Minister of Canada I would like to refer to the Canadian History Society in which all of us here this evening are so much interested. His Majesty the King, as I have already stated, has been graciously pleased to become our Patron. You will notice a little booklet beside you, giving you some account of the Society. It owes its origin, as that brochure shows, to the correspondence which took place between Lady Minto and the Duke of Connaught, and I am glad to be able to tell you to-night, and I am sure you all agree with me, that it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for us that the Duke of Connaught can become President of the Society. His Royal Highness had hoped to have been with us to-night, but he goes South every year, and is at present on the French Riviera.

He has sent me the following message :—

"I repeat my regrets at being unable to be with you this evening. I express my warmest sympathy with your splendid efforts, already so well supported, to cement still further the historic connexion between Canada and England. I am so glad to have been from the first personally associated with this splendid scheme of yours, which will be of the greatest value to the rising generation of Canada as well as to its archives."

The Duke of Connaught was associated in the foundation of this Society with Lady Minto, who has kindly consented to become the Vice-President. No Canadian Vicereine was better loved in her days in Canada than Lady Minto, and the fact that she continues to interest herself in the affairs of that country will be a source of much pleasure to the Canadian people. It is peculiarly appropriate that Lady Minto should be associated with this Society, because her husband, the late Lord Minto, was to all intents and purposes the founder of the Canadian Archives, and she is really carrying on the work that he so well began.

In speaking of that work I must also refer to the services rendered to those archives by Lord Minto's immediate successor, the late Lord Grey, whose son I am so glad to welcome to-night.

The French Society is already under way, and you will notice that the Marquis de Montcalm has accepted the office of President of the Council of the Families in France. There is no greater name to conjure with in the past of Canada than the name of Montcalm, and the present Marquis, the representative of the famous General, has asked me to read from him the following letter :—

"It is a matter of great regret to me that I cannot be with you at the dinner you are giving in London for Mr. Mackenzie King, the Prime Minister of Canada. I would very much like to have been able to have joined with you in conveying all good wishes to the Prime Minister of the country in which, as you know, I am so much interested. I trust you will offer on that evening my felicitations to Mr. Wolfe-Aylard. At the same time I trust that all success will attend the Canadian History Society. I hope that the French branch, of which I am Chairman of the Council of the Families, will be able at no far distant date to play a practical part in connexion with the early history of Canada."

In England we had to choose the President of the Council of the Families, and it is not unnatural that we should invite to take that place our greatest peer, the Duke of Devonshire, who has not only been a Governor-General of Canada, but has married the daughter of a Governor-General, and every Canadian is grateful to him for the fact that he has interested himself as much in Canada since his departure as in the days of his Governor-Generalship.

I do not propose to refer to all the company, as that would entail some chapters of Canadian history, but I am particularly happy to have with me this evening Lord Durham, who in the last few months has evinced his continued interest in the country his grandfather had so much to do with, in presenting to the Archives of Canada data and material which will in very truth alter the history of Canada. And in addition to Lord Durham I have with me Lord Elgin, the grandson of one of the ablest constitutionalists Canada has ever known, the eighth Earl of Elgin.

In conclusion on this subject, may I say that as James Murray was the first Governor and Lord Byng of Vimy is at present the last, we have with us to-night the Master of Elibank, James Murray's direct descendant, and Lord Strafford, the head of the house of Byng ?

To-night, then, we of the new age can afford in pride and thankfulness to look back upon the old. The beacons our fathers kindled are generally a better guide than the beacons kindled by our own endeavours. With yesterday all around me as it is to-night, I venture in your name to

welcome to London the Prime Minister of the country your forefathers made. The great heritage in which your families played so large a part is now in his hands to govern and to guide. I am confident that he will continue the great traditions they left behind them. I am also sure that in his great mission he will find no where in the world a more interested and sympathetic company than that which has gathered to meet him this evening. I therefore ask you to join with me this evening in welcoming the Prime Minister of Canada ; particularly the families of the old welcome the Prime Minister of the new and drink with me the health of Mr. Mackenzie King and to express our earnest hope that his days of office may be useful and happy days.

The toast was enthusiastically honoured. The Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. MACKENZIE KING, then said :—

I must thank my friend Sir Campbell Stuart for giving me the privilege of being a member of so distinguished a company. May I, on this occasion, in company with fellow Canadians, whom I am pleased to see here this evening, express to the members of the Canadian History Society something of the appreciation which we in Canada feel of the interest being taken in the history of our country by those who have had so much to do with the making of it, and by the descendants of those who have in their keeping many of the records of our past story. I esteem it a high privilege to have the opportunity of being present at a gathering at which the Canadian History Society is being formally inaugurated.

I doubt if any historical society was ever inaugurated under more favourable auspices. You, Sir Campbell Stuart, have read to-night a telegram from His Majesty the King expressing His Majesty's willingness to become the patron of the Society. This occasion is graced by the distinguished presence of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who has expressed his sympathy with all that relates to Canada's past and to her future as well. The Society has as its President His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who has left in Canada a memory which will be ever revered by all who knew him and by generations to come. The presidency of the Council of the Families could not be entrusted to better hands than those of the distinguished Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Duke of Devonshire, who is also a former distinguished Governor-General of Canada, one whose name is held in high regard by all Canadians. We feel that in England we have in His Grace the Duke of Devonshire as great a representative of Canada as in our Dominion England had in him.

I wish it were possible to express something of the feelings that come nearest to one's heart at this moment. It is not difficult to imagine the appeal of such a gathernig as this to the heart of one coming from the Dominion to the Old Land, especially when one has the pleasure of meeting gentlemen whose names have been household words from one's earliest infancy, and sees, as it were, the story of the Dominion told in terms of their respective personalities. There is something particularly appropriate in the fact that the Society should owe its origin to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and to Lady Minto, who is its vice-president. I happen to recall a conversation which I had the privilege of having with Sir Wilfrid Laurier a few years ago, in the course of which Sir Wilfrid said that it was the late Lord Minto who was responsible for the creation of the Archives Department of Canada. Lord Minto saw how important it was that the history of Canada should be gleaned from original documents, and how necessary it was that the Government should have an appropriate building in which these valuable records could be kept, and it was due to Lord Minto's interest and insistence that the Canadian public archives were established in the first instance. With all Lord Minto's good works in Canada Lady Minto was intimately associated, and it is a particular pleasure to all of us in the Dominion to feel that an association in which we felt a deep pride at the time remains unbroken by the interest which Lady Minto is taking at the present time in the work of this Society.

There is very much to appeal to one's imagination in a gathering such as this. Indeed, sitting here to-night my thoughts went back to a trip I made some years ago to the Orient—to Majima, in Japan, where, at the top of a steep ascent, I came across a flame which had been lighted over a thousand years ago. The Japanese have safeguarded that sacred fire, they have kept it alight as a holy fire, and for all that time it has never been extinguished, even for a moment. In the years of the past, not running into a thousand years, but now into the hundreds, there went out from this Old Land men and women inspired by high ideals of public service to bring the traditions, the ideas, and the ideals of the Old World to the New. They did their part in the making of Canadian history, they lit fires on the altars of the Dominion, and it is for their sons and grandsons to carry on their work, to keep the glow of those fires reflected in the hearts of Canadians—those sacred fires lighted by their ancestors in the past, the ancestors of many who are gathered in this room to-night.

One has but to glance around this room to see how much of the history of Canada is associated with those who

are present. I have referred to Lord Minto ; it is a great pleasure to see his son here to-night, to renew in this Old World the acquaintance we made in Canada a few years ago. I see near him, on the other side of Lord Durham, Lord Grey ; and what memories his presence recalls ! I do not know of any man who ever did more to inspire the younger men of his generation with noble aims and high ideals than the late Earl Grey. Indeed, I could not help thinking to-night how much personally I owe to the many words of encouragement given me by the late Lord Minto when he was Governor-General, and by Lord Grey when he was Governor-General and by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire. I think I should very much have doubted any worthiness on my part to attempt some of the tasks of public life which have since come my way had it not been for the encouragement which came from these noblemen of the Old Land, who, in their genial, kindly, and generous way, extended a word that was more than welcome at the time, and which will be remembered as long as life itself.

I see opposite to me Lord Durham, whose name I have just mentioned. Well, that takes one back to a bit of interesting history in Canada. It comes closer to me, perhaps, than to most others in this room, because it relates to the period when we were seeking to work out the problem of responsible government, when political parties were strongly divided, so strongly that uprisings occurred, in which one at least of my ancestors played a somewhat conspicuous part. The then Lord Durham came out from England to Canada to see who was in the right and who in the wrong. May I take this opportunity of thanking Lord Durham for having so generously presented to Canada the valuable collection of manuscripts which belonged to his distinguished grandfather, and which will undoubtedly lead to the re-writing in part of that period of Canada's history ? It is one of the greatest gifts Canada has received, and I assure Lord Durham Canada will always greatly treasure it. Speaking of Sir George Arthur, I think an ancestor of his had close associations with the political group known as the Family Compact. He was not without his share of the responsibility for the exile of my grandfather. A price was put on my grandfather's head as one of the leaders of the rebellion, and for a period of time he was exiled from the country for the part which he had played.

Then I see before me Lord Elgin. I must thank him for the fact that his grandfather pardoned my grandfather and allowed him to come back to Canada, to return and again take his part in the politics of the country. It was Lord Elgin's grandfather who assented to the Rebellion Losses Bill, which compensated for their losses, not only those who were loyal, but many of those who were rebels. I do not

know where I should have been but for these gentlemen. My mother was born when her father was in exile, so I think I probably owe a little to each of them.

Then I see here Sir Charles Townshend, who is a descendant of the distinguished General Townshend who was present at the capture of Quebec and took over the country in the name of the British ; also the Master of Elibank, a descendant of Murray, the first Governor of Canada. This reminds me that the remains of one of my grandfathers, my father's father, rest in the Old Military Burial Ground at Quebec as those of an unknown British soldier. He came to Canada with a detachment of Artillery, of one of the Highland Regiments, prior to the Rebellion of 1837 and 1838. He was on active service throughout that period, and died shortly after. How many are the reminiscences which one might recount on such an occasion as this ! They reveal how the peoples of British stock, who are strong in their convictions, are prepared if need be to fight out their differences, and also how, when the struggle is over, they are prepared to respect differences of opinion. They reveal something alike of the tenacity and the magnanimity of the British race.

You have referred, Sir, to the Marquis de Montcalm, and have read the very chivalrous letter which he has written on this occasion. If I may be permitted to request it, I hope you will convey to him the thanks of the Government of Canada for the words you have quoted to-night. There is in the ancient capital of Quebec a memorial shaft erected not to Wolfe, not to Montcalm, but to the memory of the two. There it stands, a single shaft to the memory of each, because they were men who were ready to stand for principle, to fight for the principles which they believed to be right, and were prepared to abide by the verdict. These incidents help to reveal what I believe to be an outstanding characteristic of our country. We had 150 years of French rule ; we have had a little over 150 years of British rule ; to-day we have the descendants of these two peoples living side by side, united in working out our national development within the British Empire. These differences of the past are forgotten, the animosities lie buried, they too are forgotten ; we seek to be only a united people, happy under the British flag, proud to be under the British Crown, and prepared to do our part for the British Empire wherever its common interests, its integrity, or its honour are imperilled or threatened.

So, gentlemen, having regard to this Society and all it may mean, not to the Canadian public only, but to the British public in whatever part of the world its members may be, I feel it possesses a significance greater perhaps than any of us can see even on this occasion. It is doing

justice not only to the past, but is helping as well to discharge a mighty obligation to the future. It is placing before our fellow-citizens in all parts of the world the story of the evolution of constitutional government in the Dominions, and in so doing is helping in the development of constitutional liberty and freedom in all parts of the British Empire, and, I believe, through the example of the British Empire to every part of the world. It will tell the story of how men of different points of view have come to work together with a common aim, and as a result have achieved their common purpose. This must needs be helpful to all parts of the British Empire and to other countries as well.

May I say a further word in regard to this matter in the name of our Government ? After the Archives Building was erected we were surprised at the extent to which it was found possible to secure from many quarters manuscripts throwing light on the history of our country. The building was constructed for the purpose of keeping these records safely and making them available to students of history, and not only to students of history but journalists, jurists, educationists, men of business, and others. Great use has been made of the Archives by persons from all parts of Canada and other countries as well. So much has this been the case that we asked Parliament at its last Session to appropriate a sum of money for the construction of an important addition to the Archives Building. The work of construction of this addition is now proceeding. Here may I pause to say a word about Dr. Doughty ? I do not think I need tell anyone in this audience who Dr. Doughty is ; I would like, however, to pay to him the tribute of saying that in the public service of Canada no one has devoted himself more entirely, more energetically, or more disinterestedly to his work than has Dr. Doughty, in connexion with all that pertains to the country's archives. Being himself a scholar and an author, knowing the value of original documents, he personally has been successful in securing for Canada, and assembling and classifying, a large part of that vast store of valuable records we have at the present time.

I should not like my words to appear to suggest that Canada in any way is seeking to take from the families of the Old World that which may be the most precious of their family possessions—the letters and papers of ancestors and friends. I should, however, like to say that we have facilities for photographing manuscripts, and that copies of original documents will amply serve the purpose of our students and our scholars. We should like an organization, if it could be maintained in this Old Land, which would discover the sources of information and enable us to secure

copies of important documents ; as a Government we would be ready to do what we could to assist it. That is all I wish to request. There is a vast amount of material which has already been collected, but there is a great deal more which has yet to be discovered. It is easy to secure the names of Governors and the names of the members of the families of the Governors, also the names of their descendants, but there are members of their households and staffs, officers, secretaries, and others, who accompanied them in their day to Canada. There must have been in the hands of the members of the regiments which came to Canada, and their descendants, records and diaries which have been brought back to this country and are now somewhere in the possession of families in this Old Land. If this Society could be the means of bringing them to light, these various documents, so that we might find it possible and be permitted to make copies, it would be of great help to our country.

Might I say just a word to Sir Robert Kindersley, to whom his Royal Highness has referred ? I am hoping that Sir Robert will find it possible to have made available for the Dominion some at least of the records of the Hudson's Bay Company. I understand the Company is taking steps to have the records put into a form where they will be made accessible. There lies a great story of the past, a story of the early history of Canada which as yet is largely a sealed book. If the Hudson's Bay Company could arrange for some of their valuable manuscripts to be made available to the students of history—I do not say send them over to Canada, but have permission given to us to have them photographed here—if that could be done, I think there will be opened a new and deeply interesting page of the early history of our country.

Let me say I am pleased to notice by the sketch of the Canadian History Society, which we have had placed in our hands, that there is to be a French branch, and that the Marquis de Montcalm is to take the presidency of the Council of the Families in France. We have 150 years of French history as well as a like period of British history, and it will be extremely valuable to have in France a similar effort made to that which is being made here. May I express the hope that the bringing together of these records will prove to be one of the agencies that will continue to bind together in friendly relationship these two great races and peoples.

I notice also that there is to be a Canadian branch of the Society. I cannot think of anyone more worthy to be the head of that branch than Sir Campbell Stuart himself. In Sir Campbell we have one who is himself a descendant of no less than three distinguished Chief Justices in Canada.

We look upon him over here as a sort of unofficial ambassador—we do not have ambassadors in our Canadian diplomatic world, but there is nothing to preclude us from having an unofficial ambassador. May I, without drawing or seeking to make comparisons, take occasion to say that of Canadians who come to London and distinguish themselves here, no one has done more to try to further the interests of his country in the Old Land than has my friend Sir Campbell Stuart. He has been generosity itself in the meeting and entertaining of Canadians who from time to time have come to London, and he has never at any time failed to endeavour to avail himself of his quite exceptional opportunities to interest the people of the Old Land in matters of great concern to Canada. I am only expressing the feelings of all Canadians who know him when I say that we are more than deeply grateful to him for his very many acts of kindness and the many courtesies extended by him to fellow Canadians, and particularly are we appreciative of the part he has played in the inauguration of this important Society, for, after all, as we know, Sir Campbell, in company with his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and Lady Minto, has had everything to do with its inception and organization.

Now, gentlemen, I am fully aware that this is not an occasion for speech-making, and I am free to confess that after five or six weeks of conference such as we have had, and the many different gatherings and functions it has been our privilege to attend, one arrives at a moment when speech-making comes to be next to impossible. Being in sight of the end of the conference, I have come pretty much to that particular point to-night. However, I should not like to leave this historic gathering without taking advantage of the occasion to say to all present how much we in Canada, who have any knowledge of the past, feel we owe to the Old Land. On looking around this room, and remembering that those assembled here have either themselves been associated with the development of Canadian affairs or are the descendants of those who have played a large part in Canada's history, one begins to realize to what extent Britain has sent to Canada the best of her sons, many of those who have been brought up amid great and noble traditions, and who, from a high sense of honour and public duty have sought to make these traditions a part of the inheritance of the New World. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the young Canada of to-day to express this word of gratitude to the men of the Old World and the descendants of those who have done so much to make our country what it is at the present time. I am sure, gentlemen, that the records which this Society may disclose will help to unfold in growing measure a story of unselfish action, of lofty patriotism, and of great devotion

to what is highest and best in the way of human service. As this story is unfolded to the Canadian people, as they learn of the care with which the Mother Land has nurtured our national life in its early beginnings, more and more as the days go by and she continues to advance in years will Canadian hearts rise up and call her blessed.

The Duke of Devonshire then said :—Your Royal Highness, Mr. Chairman, my Lord Archbishop, my Lords and Gentlemen,—Presumably, being the junior of the ex-Governor-Generals of Canada, I accept the responsibility of saying a few words to-night on behalf of the families connected with Canada. I am glad an Executive Committee is to be formed, and I have every reason to know that it will take a heavy share of the burden. The Chairman is Sir Campbell Stuart, and we will have the assistance of Sir Robert Kindersley, Sir William Schooling, Mr. John Buchan, Dr. A. G. Doughty, while Mr. H. P. Biggar is to be the Secretary. The moment Sir Campbell Stuart showed me the list I knew at once that no argument would be of the slightest avail, and I saw, as I was rather busy, that the sooner I accepted the situation the better. I can only offer one word of advice to all of you who may have documents and papers of interest to Canada, and that is, the sooner you produce them the better. You will have to do so in due course, and to save both time and temper you had better do it with the greatest possible alacrity. I assume that all of us who are connected with the past history of Canada will be only too pleased and proud to make such contributions as we can to the history not, as the Prime Minister has said, of a young country, but to a country which has already a long, honourable, and distinguished history. As has already been referred to this evening, I see around these tables names which are closely connected with Canada and which many localities in Canada have adopted as their own. I am afraid my own family cannot claim any distinction of that character, but I have discovered a fact that is probably unknown to many Canadians, and that is that there is a place called Cavendish. It is a very delightful spot on the north shore of Prince Edward Island. I determined to go there, and I was pleased I did. I also found a place called Chatsworth, and I was particularly anxious when I was in that neighbourhood to spend a Sunday there. For many reasons I welcome this Society, and if I may humbly say so, I have endeavoured to make myself acquainted and to identify myself with the history of Canada. On an occasion of this sort one would not wish to enter into matters which may be of a controversial character, but I think there are many in this room who know that Canada in the past has been handicapped through not having access to and knowledge of the documents which

she ought to have. Well, we trust that will not occur again. I have no wish of course to quote speeches of my own, but there was an occasion when I was asked, and I accepted, the Presidency of the year of the Royal Society of Canada. Some seven or eight months after my acceptance I received a letter asking what the subject of my Presidential address was about. I can assure you that I felt horrified and amazed at having to deliver a Presidential address at all, but having given such consideration as I could to the subject, I thought out the topics with which I could deal and selected the subject of research. I then proceeded to take various steps to prepare a speech, and I proposed to refer to historical research. Not unnaturally I went at once to my friend Dr. Doughty, and I must say he rose to the suggestion with characteristic keenness, and a few days afterwards I received some notes from him. They were of the greatest value and assistance to me, but I am bound to confess I had to modify them very considerably, as I have no doubt, had I delivered the subject in the precise words and phraseology of Dr. Doughty, that the then Canadian Government would have immediately sent a telegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies demanding my instant recall. However, I hope that even by a brief reference to a speech on a previous occasion of my own, I can show that I have a real and genuine interest in the work which this Society is about to take in hand. I am sure we all are glad to hear and to know that a great statesman, one of the Prime Minister's distinguished predecessors, Sir Robert Borden, having retired from active political life, is devoting his great brains and ability to the study of historical work.

My Lords and Gentlemen:—On Thursday His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is to open a new building where the Institute of International Affairs will find a home. It is a new building for the Institute, but it is a very old and historical building, not only in the history of London, but in the history of the Empire. The mere fact that that Institute is finding a home in that not only convenient but very appropriate house is due to the generosity of a great Canadian citizen, and I am sure we are all most deeply grateful to him for the very great service and great public spirit which he has shown in enabling the Institute to carry on its work under such comfortable, favourable, and suitable conditions. Your Royal Highness, My Lords and Gentlemen. If I may speak on behalf of all those families identified and associated with Canada in the past, I say that we will do everything which lies in our power to support this movement and to render it every possible assistance. I am convinced that when once the objects of the Society are known, it will meet with a ready response and we shall be able to make

a valuable contribution, not only to the history of Canada, but to the history of the Empire.

Mr. Winston Churchill spoke as follows:—Sir Campbell Stuart, your Royal Highness, your Grace, my Lords and Gentlemen, to the deep and sympathetically moving speeches to which we have listened from the Duke of Devonshire and from the Prime Minister of Canada, I can assure you I shall only venture to add a very few words. The attraction of the idea which Sir Campbell Stuart has been engaged in propagating must be apparent to everyone who has read the paper circulated with our bill of fare and to all who have listened to the speeches this evening. It is an idea at once inspired by vision and it links the past with the present and arms the future with both. What we owe in this country, what every man owes in every country, to history and to tradition, cannot be computed by any human principle. When we think of ourselves in these islands, and we perhaps may possess traditions unequalled in the Western World, when we look back upon the long continuity which we have preserved in our history, when we remember how we have always been able to quarrel even in the fiercest manner without breaking that which enshrines our national spirit, when we remember the splendid situation which in later generations we have won for ourselves, we must admire and we must cherish and we must sustain the value of the historic sense. My Lords and Gentlemen, during the days that have gone by since one nation after another sprang out of the loins of the British Empire and grew to power, can we conceive what our position would be if, for instance, the historic scenes were destroyed? If, for instance, we were told that we could enjoy all our faculties, all our knowledge, all our practical business, but that we should remember nothing about our country beyond, shall we say, November 11, 1918. Here we should be physically, mentally, and in every way equipped as we are to-day, but what poor broken, shattered mortals should we creep through this world if a sponge was passed across our minds in that way. There is no greater task, there is no greater element in the composition of a strong world organism than this consciousness of the sequence of events. History is not only the guiding light, the pillar, history is not only the foundation-stone of patriotism, but history carries with it the title-deeds of nationalism itself. The Canadian History Society aims at bringing into active and vital existence not merely the history of Canada, great though it be, varied, romantic, splendid though it be, adorned though it be with the immortality of heroism in the Great War, where no troops in the world surpassed the achievements of the Canadian Army; but it also connects and interweaves the history of Canada

with the history of the great Commonwealth of Nations which is called the British Empire. It shows not only that keen sense of individuality of our national consciousness and identity, so necessary to this great and growing new community, but also its profound association, as the Prime Minister of Canada has said, with the Old Motherland which has never nurtured in its heart an ill-thought of Canada, and now in its later days looks upon the future of Canada as one of its greatest and most glorious and most cherished hopes.

Mr. JOHN BUCHAN spoke as follows:—Sir Campbell Stuart, your Royal Highness, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—The enterprise which has been inaugurated to-night seems to me to have both width of imagination and practical usefulness to commend it, and I am honoured to have a small share in it. The work of collecting the archives speaks for itself. From these archives we propose to publish a series of biographies which shall tell the history of Canada to the ordinary man throughout the Empire. Our aims are set forth in this booklet, our achievements are still to come, but I am happy to be able to announce one step which we have taken. We have been fortunate enough to induce my friend, Lord Charnwood, to undertake the biography of Lord Durham, perhaps the most difficult, the most fascinating, and the most potent character in modern Canadian history.

It seems to me that since the Great War we have realized more clearly than before the historical continuity of the world's development and the importance of preserving records. We have come to prize more than ever the heritage of our past, and to have a new consciousness of the value of history. This enterprise of ours has also a special and topical interest. It is a kind of tail-piece to the work of the Imperial Conference. We seek to emphasize the intimate historic connexion of Britain and her greatest Dominion. The world is moving away, I think, from hard-and-fast schemes of Imperial union, but there remain those delicate and intangible ties which are stronger than any paper constitution. It is our business, on behalf of the peoples both of Canada and Great Britain, to strengthen one of those ties, the bond of an intimately connected past. For, after all, nations which worship at the same ancestral shrines, which have the same memories, and cherish the same ideals of what is worthy to be remembered, have the strongest and most enduring bond of union, for, if the fates are kind, they will move forward together in a true unity of spirit.

SIR ROBERT KINDERSLEY (Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company) then spoke as follows:—Your Royal Highness, Mr. Chairman, my Lords and Gentlemen,—Reference on several occasions to-night has been made to the records

of the Hudson's Bay Company, and a hope has been expressed that those records may be made available, not only for this Society, but for the world at large. I feel to-night in somewhat of an apologetic mood, because I know that criticism has been levelled at the company I represent, because our records have not been revealed. I, myself, personally deny the responsibility for that to a large extent. My predecessor—I refer to Lord Strathcona —I am sure for very good reasons, has very jealously guarded our archives. But the company which I represent and my fellow directors feel that to-day there is less need for caution, or for so much caution, being necessary now as in the past, and we have been taking steps since 1918 to try and gather together all the papers in our possession. I may tell you that that is no light task. Already, the index of papers covers 400 foolscap sheets, and we are continuing to get from the various posts throughout Canada the documents which have rested so many years there, and they are now coming to hand, and when the indexing of all our possessions is complete, they undoubtedly will cover 1,000 foolscap sheets. That will be examined before we can really give a decision, first of all as to how much of that can be published, and, secondly, in what form it shall be published; but I wish to-day to take this opportunity of assuring those who are interested that my committee recognize only too well that the history of the Hudson's Bay Company of Canada itself forms to a large extent the history of a great portion of Canada. For that reason, as I say, we feel that at the earliest possible moment this material should be placed at the disposal of those who are interested in the history of Canada. May I, perhaps, as an answer to much of the criticism which I have heard during the last two or three years in regard to our obstinacy as to the bestowal of these documents, say this, that there is another side to that question, and I feel that the gratitude of Canadians may be extended to us if they look at the question from this point of view: at least we have these documents in our possession, and I guarantee to say that there are very few companies having a record of 220 years who can have in their possession to-day, or would have in their possession to-day, so many documents which I believe to be of value, as we have? At least I claim that for my company, and we seek some recompense for the criticism we have received in the past. As I have said before, and I should like again to emphasize, both the Deputy Governor and myself and the other directors of the company are doing their utmost to get these documents into such form as can be made available, and they will be placed at the disposal of the public at large at the earliest moment that we can conveniently arrange.

Lord Burnham then spoke as follows.—My Lords and

Gentlemen,—I very rapidly obey his Royal Highness's command to give you the health of our Host and Chairman. I imagine his Royal Highness asks this, not because I am obviously outside the scope of this Society, but because I am, happily, or unhappily—and most of you will say unhappily—a journalist. Well, gentlemen, most men are known to their friends, but there are just a few men who are known to their fellow countrymen. Sir Campbell Stuart is most favourably known both by his friends and by his fellow countrymen. He is, I think I may say, a general favourite in the British Empire. To-day, he is doing a service for the whole Empire as we know. Most of the worst enmities of the world have arisen from a perversion of history. He may not be going to write history, he may leave that to others, but he is certainly making history to-night. There never was a time when personality counted so much in the affairs of man. I do not know anywhere a more pleasant personality throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire than Sir Campbell Stuart, or one that is more acceptable in the country. I am sure we all gratefully acknowledge that what he has done has been in the best interests, both of the Dominions, and the Empire as a whole, and I will ask you to join with me in drinking most heartily to his good health and to the success of his work.

The toast was enthusiastically honoured.

Sir Campbell Stuart, in acknowledging the toast, urged that every person who through descent was eligible for membership in the Society should write at once to Mr. H. P. Biggar, at the Public Record Office, Chancery-lane, W.C. He said that it was hoped to have a re-union dinner every year at which both men and women would be present. For that reason, it was very desirable that the Secretary should have as complete a list as possible of the names of all the descendants. He added that it was hoped to have at these annual meetings representatives of Canada, and representatives of France.

After a reference to the services rendered by Dr. Doughty, the Dominion Archivist, in the organization of the Society, the proceedings terminated.

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